The Examiner maintains that Kim discloses the claimed storage device. In particular, the

Examiner refers to pg. 6, line 20 to pg. 7, line 2 and lines 15-25, along with claim 1 of Kim as

disclosing the storage device. Applicant respectfully traverses this assertion.

In the cited portion of pages 6 and 7 of Kim, the reference discloses:

> "The interactive operator 150 includes a micro processor for overall
> control of the repetitive video playback apparatus 100. When the user enters a
> command for the conventional playback mode, the interactive operator 150
> provides the playback request message to the video server 110 through the
> network interface unit 120. While the bit streams of the requested video are
> received from the video server 110, the interactive operator 150 stores **the bit
> streams** into the storage unit 160." (emphasis added)

In claim 1 and page 7, lines 15-25 of Kim, it is again disclosed that the storage unit 160

stores the bit stream.

Applicant submits that the storage of a bit stream in the storage unit 160 of Kim fails to

teach or suggest storage of decoded image information. In particular, in Figure 2 of Kim, data

(bit steam) is stored in the storage unit 160 (S23). If a repeat operation is requested (S22; Yes),

the bit stream is extracted (S25). The extracted bit stream is then *decoded* (S26). Thus, by virtue

of the teachings of Kim, the bit stream actually stored in the storage unit 160 is not "decoded"

image information. Rather, it is decoded once extracted from the storage unit 160.

Claim 1 further recites an output controlling device which sequentially reads out and

outputs the decoded image information in order of precedence at the time of writing the decoded

image information while writing the decoded image information in a predetermined region of the

storage device.

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The Examiner maintains that claim 1, portion (b), claim 3, pg. 6, line 20-pg. 7, line 2 and pg. 7, line 15 - pg. 8, line 1 of Kim disclose the claimed output controlling device. Applicant respectfully traverses this assertion. For example, similar to Applicant's comments above, the information held in the claimed storage device is "decoded" image information, while in Kim, the bit streams held in the storage unit 160 are "encoded" bit streams (see also, pg. 6, lines 8-14). Therefore, Kim fails to teach or suggest an output controlling device that writes "decoded" image information in a predetermined region of a storage device, as recited in claim 1.

Still further, claim 1 recites, "wherein the repetitive reproduction controlling device instructs the output controlling device to output the decoded image information in the repetition reproduction range and to acquire the decoded image information subsequent to the repetitive reproduction range, when the repetitive reproduction controlling device is instructed to begin to perform the repetitive reproduction processing by the repetitive reproduction start instructing device."

In regard to the above feature, the Examiner refers to page 7 lines 3-14, page 8 line 24 - page 9 line 5, page 12 lines 2-10 and claim 1 (g) of Kim. Applicant respectfully traverses this assertion. For example, Kim "decodes" the stored bit stream after the repeat operation is requested. Applicant refers the Examiner to Figure 2 of Kim, where video data (bit steam) is stored in the storage unit 160 (S23), the repeat operation is requested (S22; Yes), the bit stream is extracted (S25), and then the bit stream is decoded (S26).

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At least based on the foregoing, Applicant submits that claim 1 is not anticipated by, nor rendered obvious over, the teachings of Kim. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claim 1.

**B.      Claims 2-4 and 10-12**

Since claims 2-4 and 10-12 are dependent upon claim 1, Applicant submits that such claims are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

**C.      Claim 5**

Since claim 5 recites features that are analogous to the features recited in claim 1, Applicant submits that claim 5 is patentable for at least analogous reasons as claim 1.

**D.      Claims 6-9 and 13-16**

Since claims 6-9 and 13-16 are dependent upon claim 5, Applicant submits that such claims are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.
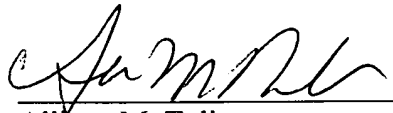
**E.      Claims 17 and 18**

Since claims 17 and 18 recite features that are analogous to the features recited in claim 1, Applicant submits that claims 17 and 18 are patentable for at least analogous reasons as claim 1.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue

Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any

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